

Attorney Docket No. 10559-360001  
Application No.: 09/820,564  
Amendment dated December 2, 2003  
Reply to Office Action dated October 2, 2003

#### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

The typographical error to the "microcontroller" has been corrected in figure 1. The reference symbols for figures 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4, 5 and 6 have also been added to the drawings.

The specification has been amended to refer to figures 3A and 3B, rather simply than figure 3. This should obviate the objections to the drawings noted in the rejection.

Claims 1-4, 8 and 9 stand rejected as being anticipated by Hui. Claims 14-22 stand rejected based on Barthloet. Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected over Hui in view of Armstrong. Claims 6, 10 and 11 stand rejected over Hui in view of Bleile. Claims 7 and 12 stand rejected over Hui in view of Lee.

In response, the claims are amended herein to emphasize their patentable distinctions. Each of the independent claims have been amended to recite that the telephone, which is the most recent telephone to signal a request, becomes a master phone. All of the other phones become slave phones that respond to commands entered by the master phone. This feature is in no way taught or suggested by the cited prior art. In fact, each item of cited prior art teaches a distributed system. It

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teaches nothing about the latest phone which makes a request becoming the master phone.

An advantage of this system is that any of the phones on the system can become the master phone, and therefore any of the phones on the system can automatically request access and automatically become the master. This produces the ability for any of the telephones to request access such as paging of the slave phone (claim 5) conferencing a slave phone (claim 6) or placing phones on hold (claim 7). According to another aspect defined by claim 4, the system automatically resets the phone system after a predetermined time of inactivity.

Hui teaches a distributed telephone, where all of the units are effectively peers. Bartholet is also consistent with this approach; again, all of the units are peers. There is no teaching or suggestion that any of the telephones in the cited reference can become the master simply by requesting access. Therefore, claim 1 should be allowable along with the claims which depend therefrom.

Claim 4 defines resetting the master slave assignment automatically after a time period, and again this is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

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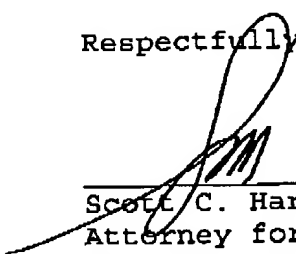
Each of the remaining independent claims have been amended in a similar way, and each should hence be allowable for similar reasons to those discussed above.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all the claim should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/01/03

  
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